

**Wednesday, March 24**

# ON THIS DAY



▲ **1989:** The *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Alaska, spilling 64 million litres of oil into the pristine waters of Prince William Sound

**1882:** German scientist Robert Koch announced he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis

**1911:** Denmark abolished capital punishment

**1999:** Fire broke out in the Mont Blanc tunnel in the Alps; it would claim 39 lives and take two days to extinguish

**2009:** The Czech government was ousted in a vote of no confidence despite the country holding the six-month rotating EU presidency